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## Strickman Cigarette Filter Collection 6958207

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This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on January 13, 2025.

Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

### Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor  
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127  
535 W. 114th St.  
New York, NY 10027

Business Number: (212) 854-5153

Fax Number: (212) 854-1365

[rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu](mailto:rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu)

URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
<b>Creator:</b>	Columbia University. Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Strickman Cigarette Filter Collection
<b>ID:</b>	6958207
<b>ID:</b>	UA#0289
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1965-1974
<b>Physical Description:</b>	3.67 linear feet (3 record cartons and 1 document box)
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English , German .
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Strickman Cigarette Filter Collection documents Columbia's brief ownership of the patent for a cigarette filter invented by chemist Robert Strickman. Soon after their announcement of the agreement, the filter was found to be not much more effective than those in use at the time and Columbia withdrew its support. These records includes Columbia's statements, correspondence, and other materials generated throughout the incident.

### Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Strickman Cigarette Filter Collection; Box and Folder; University Archives, Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

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In 1967, chemist Robert Strickman approached Columbia University about a cigarette filter he invented. Strickman claimed that the filter would greatly reduce the amount of tar and nicotine inhaled by cigarette users, up to two-thirds of the tar and nicotine that drifted past conventional filters. Strickman transferred the ownership of the invention to the University. The agreement between Columbia and Strickman, with Columbia endorsing claims of the

filter's effectiveness, was publicly announced by President Grayson Kirk and Dr. H. Houston Merritt, Dean of Columbia's College of Physicians and Surgeons in July, 1967. In testing, the filter was found to be not much more effective than those in use at the time and Columbia withdrew its support. In front of the Senate Commerce Committee, President Kirk admitted that the original announcement had been "regrettably premature." In 1968, Columbia reassigned ownership of the invention to a private organization.

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## Summary

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The Strickman Cigarette Filter Collection documents the position of Columbia University on their ownership of the patent for the Strickman Cigarette Filter. The collection includes materials related to the formation and publicizing of the agreement with Strickman to support the patent in 1967. Materials from late 1967 through 1970 cover emerging concerns about the filter's efficacy and Columbia's effort to distance itself from it. The collection contains correspondence, newspaper clippings, and other administrative records. The majority of the correspondence is from President Grayson Kirk and his assistant Helen King, in addition to letters from Columbia's lawyers, trustees, and alumni. Important documents to note include the agreement to take ownership of the patent, box 1 folder 6; and materials related to the reassignment of the patent away from Columbia, box 1 folder 11. The collection also includes materials from the United States Senate hearings related to the filter, and other memos, statements, and press releases.

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## Arrangement

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The collection is arranged in two series. Correspondence, press, and other materials in Series I have been grouped together for ease of use.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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### **Revision Description**

xml document instance created by Celeste Brewer. EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. EAD edited to include Series II by JKW. 2018-08-22 2019-05-20 2021-02-22

### **Restrictions on Access**

This collection has no restrictions.

### **Restrictions on Access**

This collection is located off-site. You will need to request this material at least three business days in advance to use the collection in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library reading room.

### **Terms Governing Use and Reproduction**

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### **Processing Information**

This collection was processed by Rachel Klepper. Finding aid written by Rachel Klepper in August 2018.

### **Processing Information**

The Strickman Cigarette Filter Collection was retained in the physical order in which it arrived. The papers were refoldered and given folder titles.

### **Accruals**

Additions are not expected.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Cigarette filters
- Columbia University -- History
- Columbia University -- Administration
- Smoking -- History
- Administrative records
- Clippings (Information Artifacts)
- Correspondence
- Reports

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## Collection Inventory

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### Series I: Strickman Cigarette Filter Collection, 1967-1974

Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence, 1967 May	box 2	folder 10
Correspondence, 1967 November	box 2	folder 18
Correspondence, 1967 December	box 2	folder 19
Correspondence, 1967-1968	box 1	folder 13
Correspondence, 1967-1968	box 3	folder 1-2
Correspondence, 1967-1970	box 2	folder 21
Correspondence, 1968 March-May	box 2	folder 16
Correspondence, 1968	box 2	folder 13
Correspondence - Assignment Agreement, 1968	box 2	folder 2
Correspondence - Dean Ralph Halford, 1967-1968	box 1	folder 9
Correspondence - Dr. Tapley Conflict of Interest, 1970	box 1	folder 8
Correspondence - President Grayson Kirk, 1967 July	box 2	folder 5
Correspondence - President Grayson Kirk, 1967 July	box 2	folder 12
Correspondence - President Grayson Kirk, 1967 August	box 2	folder 6-8
Correspondence - President Grayson Kirk, 1967 September	box 2	folder 15
Correspondence - President Grayson Kirk, 1967 October	box 2	folder 17

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Correspondence - President Grayson Kirk, 1967-1968	box 1	folder 7
Correspondence - Treasurer William Bloor, 1967-1968	box 1	folder 10
Burrelle's Clippings, 1967 July	box 1	folder 14-15
Burrelle's Clippings, 1967 August	box 1	folder 16
Burrelle's Clippings, 1967 September	box 1	folder 17
Burrelle's Clippings, 1968	box 1	folder 18
Newspaper Clippings, 1967 July	box 2	folder 3-4
Newspaper Clippings, 1967 July	box 3	folder 14-15
Newspaper Clippings, 1967 August	box 3	folder 12-13
Newspaper Clippings, 1967 September-October	box 3	folder 11
Newspaper Clippings, 1967 November-December	box 3	folder 10
Newspaper Clippings, 1967-1968	box 1	folder 12
Newspaper Clippings, 1967-1968	box 2	folder 11
Newspaper Clippings, 1968-1969	box 3	folder 9
Magazines, 1967-1968	box 1	folder 19
Radio and TV Reports, 1967-1968	box 1	folder 21
General Clippings, 1967-1974	box 1	folder 20
Press Conference, 1967 July 13	box 3	folder 7
Press Releases and Drafts, 1967	box 3	folder 6
Press Releases, 1967-1968	box 1	folder 4
Press Releases, 1967-1968	box 2	folder 1
Testing Program by Doctors Ralph Halford and Cheves Walling, 1967	box 1	folder 2
Committee on Commerce United States Senate Hearing, 1967	box 1	folder 5
Assignment Agreement, 1967	box 1	folder 6
Senate Hearing Transcript, 1967	box 2	folder 20
Memos, 1967	box 3	folder 3
Background Materials, 1967	box 3	folder 5
Senate Subcommittee Hearings, 1967	box 3	folder 8
Trustees Materials, 1967-1968	box 2	folder 22
Strickman Filter Material Efficiency Report, 1968	box 1	folder 1
Testing Data, 1968	box 1	folder 3

Reassignment Memo, 1968	box 1	folder 11
Supplemental Report to the Trustees, 1968	box 2	folder 9
Assignment Agreement Materials, 1968	box 2	folder 14
Statements, 1968	box 3	folder 4

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## Series II: Gordon Kaye Files, 1965-1968

### Scope and Contents

This series contains the lab notebooks and files of notes, test records, clippings, and correspondence related to Dr. Gordon Kaye's work on the Strickman Cigarette Filter project. Gordon Kaye (1935-2019) received an A.B. from Columbia College in 1955, an A.M. from Columbia University in 1957, and a Ph.D. in Anatomy from the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1961. He was Associate Professor of Surgical Pathology, and Director of the F. Higginson Cabot Laboratory of Electron Microscopy at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University. In 1976, he was named Alden March Professor and Chairman of the Department of Anatomy, Albany Medical College.

Of note in this series are annotated drafts of some of the statements that were part of the final agreements of the interested parties. There is also a handwritten draft (in Kaye's handwriting) of Robert Strickman's statement. Although there are some journal articles from 1965 and 1966, the bulk of the materials in this series date from 1967-1968.

Title/Description	Instances	
Analysis by Others, 1967-1968	box 4	folder 1
Clippings, 1967-1968	box 4	folder 2
Correspondence, 1967-1968	box 4	folder 3
Disclosure Agreement, 1967 October	box 4	folder 4
Fitelson Laboratories Analysis Report, 1968 January 15	box 4	folder 5
Graphs and Data Notes, 1967	box 4	folder 6
Invoices, 1967	box 4	folder 7
Laboratory Notebook/Data, 1967 August-October	box 4	folder 8
Laboratory Notebook, 1967 August 3-25	box 4	folder 9
Laboratory Notebook, 1967 August 26 - September 28	box 4	folder 10
Reports on Efficiency, 1967	box 4	folder 11
Strickman Statement, 1968	box 4	folder 12
Smoking Data Reports, 1967	box 4	folder 13



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